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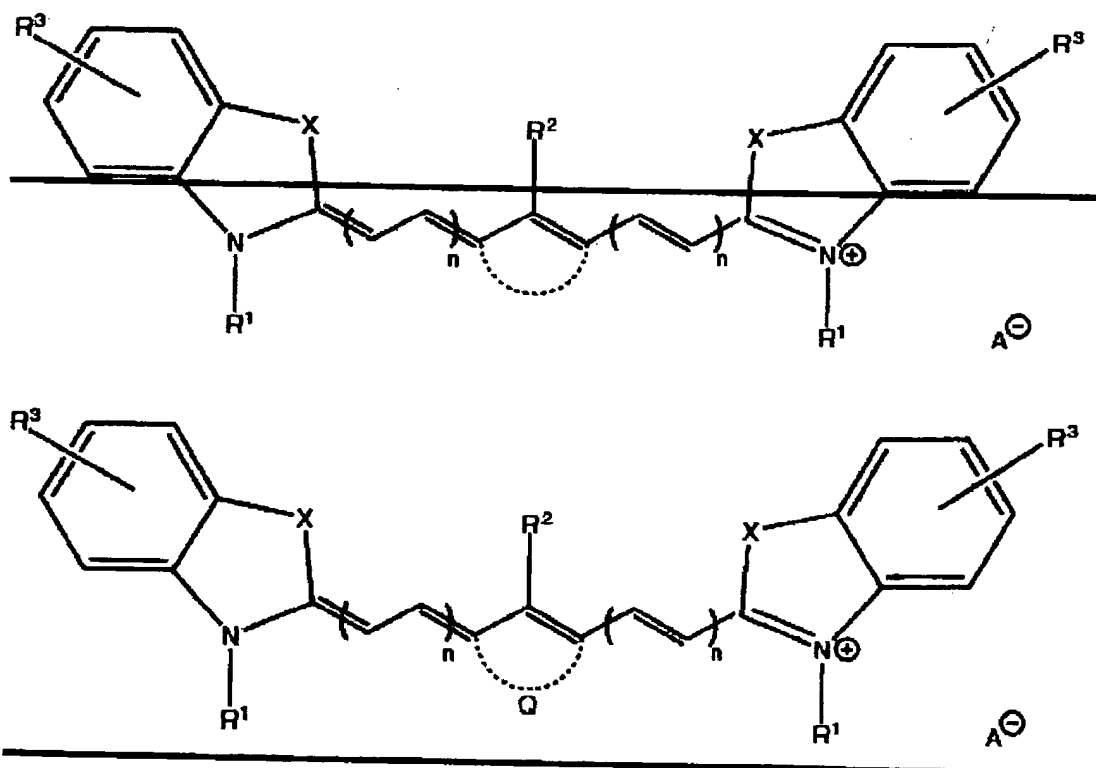
Amendments To The Specification

Please replace the first paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The free radical polymerizable system has one or more of: unsaturated free radical polymerizable monomers, oligomers which are free radical polymerizable and polymers containing C=C bonds in the backbone and/or in the side chain ~~groups groups~~, and an initiator system.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16 beginning at line 19 and bridging to page 17 at line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

It is more preferred that component (a) includes a cyanine dye of the formula (A)



wherein each X can independently be S, O, NR or C(alkyl)₂;
each R^1 can independently be an alkyl, an alkylsulfonate or an alkylammonium group;
 R^2 can be hydrogen, halogen, SR, SO₂R, OR or NR₂;

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each R^3 can independently be a hydrogen, an alkyl group, COOR, OR, SR, SO_3^- , NR_2 , a halogen, and or an optionally substituted benzofused ring;

A^- represents an anion;

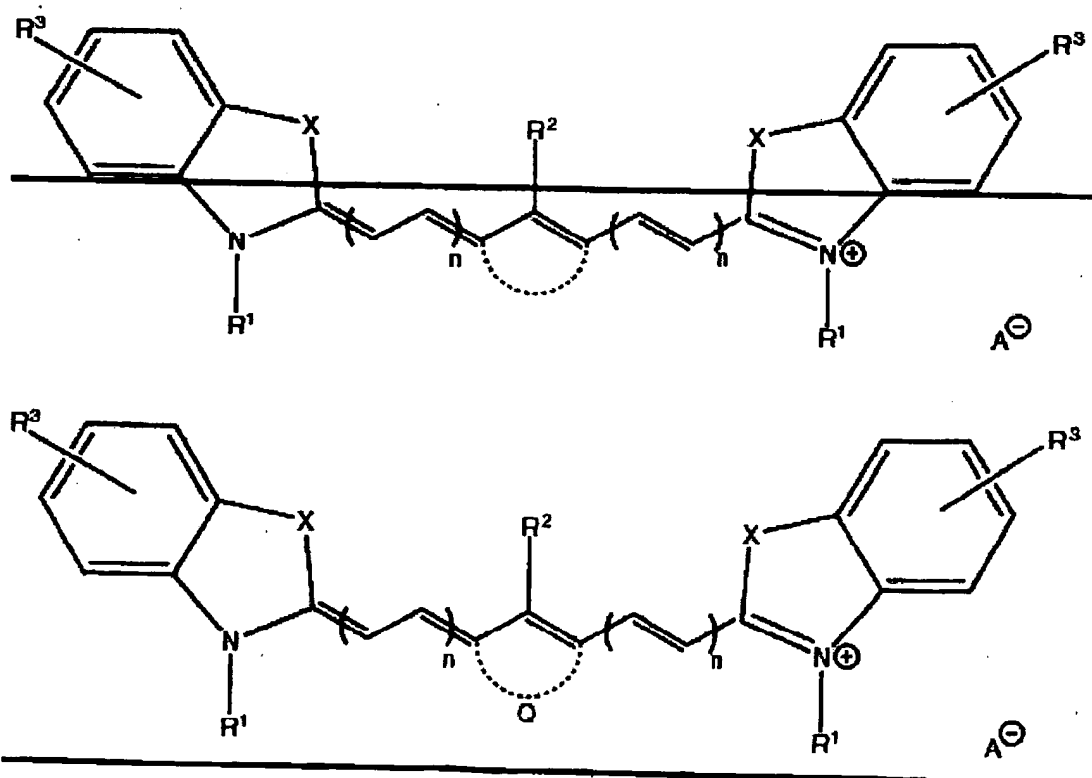
$[- - -] - Q - -$ represents an optional bridge completing a five- or six-membered carbocyclic ring;

wherein each R can independently be hydrogen, an alkyl and an aryl group; and

wherein each n can independently be 0, 1, 2 or 3.

Please replace the paragraph on page 19 beginning at line 9 and bridging to page 20 at line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The initiator system of the present invention includes as an essential component a compound capable of absorbing IR radiation. This IR absorber is preferably selected from triarylamine dyes, thiazolium dyes, indolium dyes, oxazolium dyes, cyanine dyes, polyaniline dyes, polypyrrole dyes, polythiophene dyes, and phthalocyanine pigments and dyes. More preferred are IR dyes of the formula (A):



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wherein each X can independently be S, O, NR or C(alkyl)₂;
each R¹ can independently be an alkyl, an alkylsulfonate or an alkylammonium group;
R² can be hydrogen, halogen, SR, SO₂R, OR or NR₂;
each R³ can independently be a hydrogen, an alkyl group, COOR, OR, SR, SO₃⁻, NR₂,
a halogen, or an optionally substituted benzofused ring;

A⁻ represents an anion;

[[- -]] - - Q - - represents an optional bridge completing a five- or six-membered carbocyclic ring;

wherein each R can independently be hydrogen, an alkyl and an aryl group; and

wherein each n can independently be 0, 1, 2 and or 3.

[On page 20 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 with the following amended paragraph:]

Particularly preferred IR dyes of the formula (A) include compounds in which:

X is preferably a C(alkyl)₂ group;

R¹ is preferably an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R² is preferably SR;

R³ is preferably hydrogen;

R is preferably an alkyl or aryl group: especially preferred is a phenyl group;

[[- -]] (~~i.e., a broken line~~), - - Q - - preferably represents the rest of a ring with 5 or 6 carbon atoms; and

counterion A⁻ is preferably a chloride ion or a tosylate anion.

On page 27 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of especially suitable compounds (b) for the compositions of the present invention include:

N-methoxy-4-phenylpyridinium ~~tetrafluoroborate~~ tetrafluoroborate;

tribromomethylphenylsulfone;

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1,2,3,4-tetrabromo-n-butane;
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,6-bis(trichloromethyl)-s-triazine;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,6-bis(trichloromethyl)-s-triazine;
2-phenyl-4,6-bis(trichloromethyl)-s-triazine;
2,4,6-tri-(trichloromethyl)-s-triazine;
2,4,6-tri-(tribromomethyl)-s-triazine;
2-hydroxytetradecyloxyphenyl phenyliodonium hexafluoroantimonate; and
2-methoxy-4-phenylaminobenzenediazonium hexafluorophosphate.

On page 39 of the Specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

as

In these examples, the Elvacite 4026 in Example 1 base coat formulation was substituted by either Joncryl 683 (acrylic polymer with an acid number of 150 mg KOH/g and MW about 10,000 g/mol; SC Johnson & Son, Inc.) (Comparative Example 2) or Jagotex MA 2814/MP (terpolymer with an acid number of 125 mg KOH/g and MW about 90K; Ernst Yager GmbH & Co.) (Comparative Example 3). The Jagotex terpolymer contains 43.3% styrene, 45% methyl methacrylate, and 11.7% acrylic acid. The base coat was applied and overcoat prepared and applied as described in Example 1. Plates were imaged as described in Example 1. Plates were processed through a Technigraph processor charged with 980 developer with the preheat oven disabled. No coating was retained following processing for either Comparative Example 2 or Comparative Example 3.
